

Extracts from Rutlish School The First Hundred Years by Colin Brock

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P 31

Hubert Walker, though born in Lancashire, spent most of his early years in East London and moved from West Ham Secondary School to the then University College Southampton where he graduated in Chemistry and Geography in 1934. Remaining in Southampton at Taunton's School he gained a Cambridge University Teachers Certificate in 1935 and embarked on further geographical studies at Fitzwilliam House, Cambridge, Graduating with honours in 1937. Hubert immediately became Head of Geography at Dame Allen's School, Newcastle-upon-Tyne until entering military service in 1939. He emerged in 1945 as a Major in the Royal Artillery and became Head of Geography at Rutlish in 1946. A dynamic teacher of geography and geology, Hubert Walker was appointed Deputy Head in 1966, acted as Headmaster during 1970, and retired in 1976, becoming an Open University Tutor in Geology. A dedicated Rutlish man, Hubert was Clerk to the Rutlish Foundation from 1965-92, and is now, in 1995, the only member of the old guard regularly seen at school functions, 50 years after joining the staff.

P31

John Blenkinsop was by now an ailing man, and was hospitalised in March of 1969, Hubert Walker becoming Acting Head. In October of the same year it was announced that the Headmaster would retire in the Spring of 1970, but in the event Mr Blenkinsop died on 17 March. The Headship was advertised and Mr R B Coyle was appointed as from 13 April 1970.

P 70

Harry Hathway, a formidable teacher of mathematics at Rutlish from 1929 in the 1970s became the world's leading expert on timekeeping. He officiated in this capacity at the 1948 Olympic Games and at many other international meetings. Harry also carried out research into the reliability of human timekeeping, which resulted in the grading system for timekeeping introduced in England and Wales being introduced. In 1963 he co-authored (with J.W. Aspland) "The Technique of Starting and Timekeeping"

P 70

Reg Thrasher was a technical official at the 1948 Olympics but was most influential in the field of Surrey athletics being successively Treasurer, Secretary and then President of Surrey CAAA during the period 1941 to 1955.